

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE LAW

Effective January 1, 2004 - California's Marine Invasive Species Act

- **FOR VESSELS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE EEZ** - Mandatory mid-ocean exchange OR Retention of all Ballast Water for all qualifying vessels
 - "Qualifying Vessels," means all vessels over 300 gross register tons, United States and foreign, carrying ballast water into the waters of the state after operating outside the waters of the state
 - "Exchange" means to replace water in tanks using either
 - "Flow through exchange" - overflowing the tank from the top until three volumes of water have been changed.
 - "Empty/refill exchange" - pump out, until tank is empty or nearly so, and then refilling the tank with mid-ocean waters.
 - "Mid-Ocean Waters" means waters that are more than 200 nautical miles from land and at least 2,000 meters (6,560 feet or 1,093 fathoms) deep.
- **FOR VESSELS COMING FROM OTHER WEST COAST PORTS** - Minimize ballast water discharges in state waters while rules are developed (due July 1, 2005).
- **FOR ALL VESSELS**
Mandatory Completion and Submission of Ballast Water Report Form by vessel master, owner, operator, agent, or person in charge of vessel at each port of call in California.

Ballast Water Report Form (developed by US Coast Guard)

[\(PDF Format\)](#) [\(Word 97 Format\)](#)

Form may be submitted electronically or in written form to CSLC.

FAX: 562-499-6444

Email: bwform@slc.ca.gov

**** Submission of this form to CSLC does NOT relieve the vessel of the responsibility to report to the US Coast Guard.**

Mandatory Compliance with "Good Housekeeping" Practices

Avoid uptake or discharge in or near marine sanctuaries, reserves, parks, or coral reefs

Minimize or avoid uptake in the following areas or circumstances:

Areas of known infestations or pathogens

Near sewage outfalls

Near dredging operations

Areas with reduced tidal flushing

In darkness when bottom-dwelling organisms are active

Where propellers may stir up sediment
Clean ballast tanks regularly to remove sediment
Dispose of sediments in accordance with appropriate laws
Minimize discharge amounts
Rinse anchors and anchor chains
Remove fouling organisms from hull, pipes, etc.
Dispose of any removed substance in accordance with laws

Maintain a [Ballast Water Management Plan](#) prepared specifically for vessel. Written document on board, specific for your vessel, describing the procedure for ballast management. It should include safety and exchange procedures.
See IMO Resolution A.868 for "Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens". Adopted November 1997.

[Ballast Water Log](#) outlining ballast water management activities for EACH ballast water tank on board the vessel and shall make the separate ballast water log available for inspection.

Training of vessel master, PIC, and crew regarding the application of ballast water and sediment management and treatment procedures

Mandatory Fee Submission to California's Board of Equalization (**916-322-1965**)

Each owner/operator shall pay \$500.00 for each qualifying voyage at their first port call in California.

Random Sampling of Vessels for Compliance

Civil and Criminal Penalties for failure to comply with any portion of the Law